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Bush isn't right man

The last job in the world that should go to a former political party chairman is that most sensitive of federal positions, the directorship of the CIA. Yet, incredibly, former GOP chairman George Bush is President Ford's appointee for the job from which he just fired William Colby.

Bush, now U.S. envoy to Peking, is best known as the Republican national chairman during much of the Watergate scandal. He had been a Texas congressman and unsuccessful candidate for the Senate. Ford calls him "one of my guys."

Opposition to Bush's appointment is developing in Congress and rightly so. We hope that ranking Republicans will quickly join Democrats Rep. Lucien Nedzi and Sen. Frank Church in objecting to Ford's blatant attempt to

politicize the CIA. Ford should not be allowed to do openly what his shifty predecessor tried to accomplish secretly.

No partisan politician of either party should get this job. Indeed, the proper candidates are probably academicians or career service people whose names would be unfamiliar to most Americans. It is not a job for anyone who has specialized in elective politics.

Ford has blundered on this one. If he persists in naming Bush, the Senate should refuse to confirm the nomination and send him back to find a professional instead of a hack.